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AFRICAN NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE TREATY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 12 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the European Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith a declaration by the Presidency of the European Union on the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 79 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI
Ambassador

* A/51/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty)

The European Union welcomes the signature in Cairo on 11 April 1996 of the Pelindaba Treaty establishing the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

The Treaty is in line with the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament issued by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which recognized that the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones enhances global and regional peace and security.

The European Union considers that nuclear-weapon-free zones are welcome complementary instruments to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the universality of which the European Union continues to promote.

The central and eastern European countries associated with the European Union and the associated countries Cyprus and Malta align themselves with this Declaration.